

June 2024

# Circuits

For Dakota Electric members



**Bee-ing  
prepared for  
outages**

## CAREERS

### BE A PART OF OUR ENERGY

[www.dakotaelectric.com/careers](http://www.dakotaelectric.com/careers)  
[HResources@dakotaelectric.com](mailto:HResources@dakotaelectric.com)  
651-463-6301

## CONTACT US

### Member Service & Drive-Up Window

7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Monday – Friday  
651-463-6212 or 1-800-874-3409  
Minnesota Relay Service 711  
[customerservice@dakotaelectric.com](mailto:customerservice@dakotaelectric.com)

**Lobby** - 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday  
4300 220th Street West  
Farmington, MN 55024

### 24-Hour Outage & Emergency Service

651-463-6201 or 1-800-430-9722

### Underground Cable Locations

Gopher State One Call 811 or  
651-454-0002 or 1-800-252-1166  
[www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org)

### New & Existing Services

651-460-7500

*Dakota Electric is an equal opportunity/  
affirmative action employer.*

*Dakota Electric Association® and Dakota  
Electric® are registered service marks of the  
cooperative.*

*All programs and rebates are subject to  
change without notice. Funds are limited and  
available on a first-come, first-served basis.*

[www.dakotaelectric.com](http://www.dakotaelectric.com)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### DISTRICT 1

John (Jack) DeYoe | *MREA Director*  
David Jones  
Gerald F. Pittman | *Treasurer*

### DISTRICT 2

Bill Middlecamp  
Clay Van De Bogart | *GRE Director* | *Vice Chair*  
Terry Donnelly | *Secretary*

### DISTRICT 3

Kenneth H. Danner  
Cyndee Fields  
Margaret D. Schreiner | *GRE Director*

### DISTRICT 4

Paul Bakken | *Chair*  
Stacy Miller  
Jenny Hoeft

# Bee-ing prepared for power outages



*Summer storms, accompanied by heavy wind and lightning, are major causes of power outages, which can be a frustrating and sometimes dangerous experience. Here are some things you can do to be prepared if you experience a power outage.*

### Have the correct phone number on file

We use the phone number on your account to locate your residence during outages. You can update your number by calling us at 651-463-6212 or by visiting [www.dakotaelectric.com](http://www.dakotaelectric.com) and selecting *Power Outages* from the main menu at the top.

### Reporting your outage

There are two options for reporting an outage.

1. Call us at 651-463-6212
2. Report it online at [www.dakotaelectric.com](http://www.dakotaelectric.com) and selecting *Power Outages* from the main menu at the top.

### Stay informed

Listen to weather updates and emergency broadcasts, and follow us on Facebook, X or Instagram for general outage news. This will help you stay informed about any power outages in your area and when power is expected to be restored.

### Outage restoration

Statistically, members experience only one power outage every three years. Many factors determine how long it will take to restore power, and it's difficult to know for sure until we identify the cause.

### Vegetation maintenance

Following storms, our crews may clear trees and limbs to facilitate necessary repairs to electric service. In such instances, wood, limbs and other debris will be left on-site. We appreciate our members' understanding and cooperation in taking responsibility for debris clean-up after emergency service restoration, tree failure, or routine trimming and vegetation maintenance.

### Stay away from downed lines

Always assume a downed power line is energized and dangerous. Call 911 if you see a downed power line.

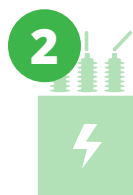
### Be patient

We understand power outages are an inconvenience and can be frustrating. Our crews will work as safely and efficiently as possible to restore your power. We appreciate your patience.

## Top four unplanned outage causes in 2023



Trees/vegetation



Equipment failures



Animals



Contractor dig-ins

# Summer energy **savings**

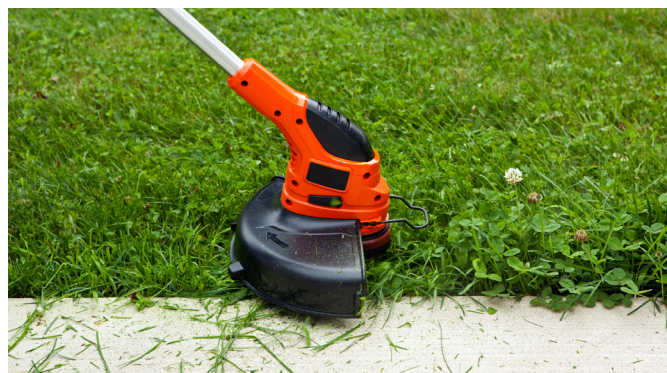
## Air conditioning



You can receive a \$25 rebate from Dakota Electric for having your AC tuned up by a licensed contractor of your choice.

You can also sign up for our Cycled Air Conditioning® program and receive a \$39 summer bill credit or a reduced price on the electricity your central air conditioner uses. Call our Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243 to learn more!

## Battery-powered yard tools



Dakota Electric has rebates ranging from \$25-\$50 for qualifying battery-powered yard tools. Today's battery-powered yard tools can handle most yard work, are reliable and easy to operate and maintain. Visit [www.dakotaelectric.com/member-services/programs-rebates](http://www.dakotaelectric.com/member-services/programs-rebates) for more information.

# Summer **energy-saving** tips

Costs associated with cooling your home can make up a large portion of your summer electric bills. Stay cool and save money with these energy efficiency tips!



Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep the heat out.



Replace disposable air filters once a month to maximize efficiency. Or follow manufacturer's guidelines.



Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room. Fans cool people, not rooms.



Install a programmable thermostat to easily adjust the temperature when you are sleeping or away from home.



Schedule regular maintenance for your cooling equipment to maximize efficiency.



Seal cracks and openings to prevent warm air from leaking into your home.



Use solar lights to brighten up your outdoor space.



On hot days, avoid using the oven. Cook on the stove, microwave or grill outside.

# Rate evaluation

Dakota Electric strives to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. We work meticulously to keep costs low, rates stable and only raise rates when necessary. While the cost of supplies and raw materials has risen over the past five years, our rates have stayed flat. Inflationary pressures, interest rates and additional grid investments to keep up with the needs of our expanding membership have necessitated the evaluation of our rates.

Dakota Electric has not had an adjustment to our base electric rates (fixed and energy charges) since 2019 and this is due in part to you, the members, enrolling in energy-saving programs and participating in energy-efficiency practices. Thank you for your continued support and assistance in keeping our rates affordable.

More information will become available in future editions of *Circuits*.

## Cost of materials

Since 2019, the cost of supplies and materials have increased exponentially. The below graphics show how much each asset has increased in cost since 2019 along with how many units/miles of each Dakota Electric maintains.



**+101%**

**Pad-mounted transformers**  
17,565 units



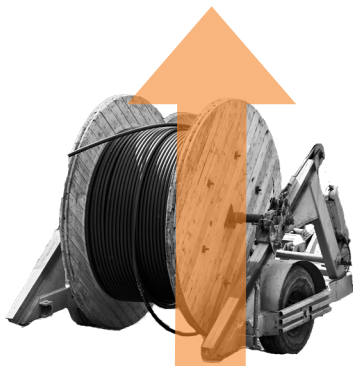
**+110%**

**Pole-mounted transformers**  
≈6,033 units



**+65% – 165%**

**Vehicles**  
≈155  
*(Percentages varied based on vehicle type)*



**+105%**

**Underground wire**  
3,181 miles



**+83%**

**Overhead wire**  
1,150 miles

# Annual meeting recap

Dakota Electric held its annual meeting on April 25, where members heard reports from Board Chair Paul Bakken, Treasurer Jerry Pittman and President & CEO Ryan Hentges.

In his report, Ryan Hentges highlighted the cooperative's achievements and priorities. He emphasized a commitment to safety, showcasing RESAP's (Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program) implementation to enhance safety measures and community education. Hentges also focused on prioritizing employee well-being, expanding the workforce and maintaining financial integrity. Infrastructure expansion and proactive maintenance were highlighted to ensure operational resilience. Energy optimization initiatives aimed to promote environmental stewardship and collaboration on renewable energy projects. Additionally, the report underscored efforts to enhance member experience through effective customer service and community engagement. Innovation was showcased through advancements in cybersecurity and the development of a DERMS (Distributed Energy Resource Management System) strategy. Throughout, gratitude was expressed to employees, community partners and members for their support and trust in Dakota Electric's sustainable future.

If you weren't able to attend the meeting, you can view the reports on our YouTube channel, or visit [www.dakotaelectric.com/about-us/annual-meeting-election](http://www.dakotaelectric.com/about-us/annual-meeting-election).

## Summer **rates** now in effect

Dakota Electric's summer rates go into effect every June, July and August, and reflect the cost we pay for wholesale electricity when increased energy use drives up the demand and cost of electricity.

By reducing your energy use, you can lower your monthly electric bill this summer. Looking for more ways to save? Call our Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243 or email [energyexperts@dakotaelectric.com](mailto:energyexperts@dakotaelectric.com) and ask about programs, rebates and current promotions available.



The results of our annual election were also announced at the meeting. Members re-elected five incumbent directors this year. (L-R) Jerry Pittman, Cyndee Fields, Clay Van De Bogart, Jenny Hoeft and Ken Danner.



Scan the QR to view the video reports.

## Music in the **park**

The Apple Valley Arts Foundation is hosting Music in the Park at Kelley Park in Apple Valley. This free event will feature live music by Salsa del Soul, sponsored by Dakota Electric. We hope to see you there!



**Kelley Park  
Apple Valley**



**Friday, June 21  
6:30-8:30 p.m.**





Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

4300 220th Street West  
Farmington, MN 55024

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Twins Baseball Clinic**  
June 8, 9-11 a.m.  
Dodge Middle School,  
Farmington
- **Music in the Park**  
June 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Kelley Park, Apple Valley

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
DAKOTA ELECTRIC  
ASSOCIATION

CONNECT WITH US!



# SAVE THE DATE

## DAKOTA ELECTRIC'S MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT

Thursday, July 18 | 4-8 p.m.  
Minnesota Zoo

Watch for registration information  
in the July edition of *Circuits*.  
We hope to see you there!



MINNESOTA ZOO®